

PEER-REVIEW REPORT

Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37872

Title: Epidemiological features of chronic hepatitis C infection caused by remunerated blood donors: A nearly 27-year period survey

Reviewer's code: 01564209

Reviewer's country: Germany

Science editor: Xue-Jiao Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-01-09

Date reviewed: 2018-01-16

Review time: 6 Days

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

Dr. Tan and colleagues presented a cross sectional study in which they aimed to explore prevalence and epidemiological features of CHC caused by paid blood donors over a time period of 27 years. To show this the authors recruited nearly 1700 participants and analysed demographic, patient, and HCV data sets. As a result of the study the colleagues could demonstrate that there was a high prevalence of viremic HCV (68.5%) in the study population, most of them infected by HCV genotype 1b. Also a high number (28%) of the HCV infected individuals suffered from cirrhosis. As risk factors for CHC progression the colleagues identified age over 60 years and alcohol abuse. Overall, the study is well performed, concise in its content showing convincing data. The methodical design and English is adequate. Minor comment 1. Because of the high number of viremic HCV infected individuals, how was the HCV RNA tests performed

and how did the colleagues avoid contamination during HCV RT-PCR tests? 2. Do the colleagues have the HCV sequences from the participants on hand or did the authors perform HCV genotyping using commercial line tests? If there are sequences available it would be of interest to analyse the chain of infection since the participants were recruited in a defined region of three cities.

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Manuscript NO: 37872

Title: Epidemiological features of chronic hepatitis C infection caused by remunerated blood donors: A nearly 27-year period survey

Reviewer's code: 02860897

Reviewer's country: Japan

Science editor: Xue-Jiao Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-01-09

Date reviewed: 2018-01-17

Review time: 7 Days

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
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		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

As authors described, the natural history of HCV is still unclear as the natural history of HBV. One of the main reasons why natural history is not clear is that the time of establishment of the infection is unclear. In this report, authors followed many patients with HCV who can be estimated the time of infection. This paper is very interesting epidemiological study, I have several questions. Major 1 Describe the inclusion criteria of blood donor and plasma donor. Positivity of HCV is quite different between the two groups. Describe the difference of background of the two groups? ALT level of plasma donor is higher than blood donor. How do you explain such difference? 2 Describe procedure of plasmapheresis. Which step is unhygienic? Did they share the needle or separation membrane? 3 Add the incidence of HCC in each group.

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Name of journal: World Journal of Gastroenterology

Manuscript NO: 37872

Title: Epidemiological features of chronic hepatitis C infection caused by remunerated blood donors: A nearly 27-year period survey

Reviewer's code: 00069855

Reviewer's country: United States

Science editor: Xue-Jiao Wang

Date sent for review: 2018-01-09

Date reviewed: 2018-01-18

Review time: 8 Days

CLASSIFICATION	LANGUAGE EVALUATION	SCIENTIFIC MISCONDUCT	CONCLUSION
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade A: Priority publishing	Google Search:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accept
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Very good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Grade B: Minor language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	<input type="checkbox"/> High priority for publication
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade C: A great deal of language polishing	<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	<input type="checkbox"/> Rejection
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Grade D: Rejected	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor revision
<input type="checkbox"/> Grade E: Poor		BPG Search:	<input type="checkbox"/> Major revision
		<input type="checkbox"/> The same title	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Duplicate publication	
		<input type="checkbox"/> Plagiarism	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	

COMMENTS TO AUTHORS

The research design is better to add a normal or no donation group for comparison. Also, some writings and grammar need to be revised. For example, "rejection of blood donation" has no clear meanings and can be misunderstood.